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**ABSTRACT**

CS The present invention relates to a new process for the synthesis of clavam compounds, in particular clavulanic acid. In one aspect the invention relates to  $\beta$ -lactam synthetase polypeptides and  $\beta$ -lactam synthetase polynucleotides, recombinant materials thereof and methods for their production. In another aspect, the invention relates to methods for using such polypeptides and polynucleotides.

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